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DHEC Health Advisory

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Hurricane Katrina Victim Temporary Medicaid Assistance

Background Information

This Health Alert is being sent on behalf of the SC Department of Health and Human Services (Medicaid) regarding Temporary Evacuee Assistance. It contains the Official SC Medicaid Bulletin and supplemental procedures.

Medicaid Bulletin: Issued 9-02-05

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, South Carolina may be hosting evacuees from the affected areas. Under normal conditions, you would be required to enroll as a provider of a recipient's home state. Due to the obvious infrastructure interruptions, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will provide temporary Medicaid coverage to all evacuees qualifying under the Medicaid program. The Medicaid card designating eligibility will state "Temporary Evacuee Assistance." Enrolled Medicaid providers will be reimbursed for South Carolina Medicaid covered services that are medically necessary to meet the immediate needs of the recipient. This policy is subject to change in relation to Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts and ongoing updates received from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Procedure for Obtaining Temporary Medicaid Assistance: Issued 9-06-05

It is the intent of the Department of Health and Human Services to accept applications for temporary Medicaid assistance for victims of Hurricane Katrina. This will be accomplished by completing the normal application, being eligible for one of South Carolina's current eligibility categories and completing a Declaration form indicating that they are a displaced victim. The assistance will be valid for an initial period of 30 days pending further clarification and guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These policies and procedures can change.

Preferably, applicants will use the normal application channel through the local eligibility offices. The addresses and phone numbers of the county eligibility offices can be found at www.dhhs.state.sc.us. DHHS typically has workers in most hospitals and will have workers available to the shelters.

Red Cross workers can assist the applicants through the process since the forms are available on the web at www.dhhs.state.sc.us and the Red Cross link will provide access to the Declaration form. The applicant need only complete the forms to the best of their ability but they must be signed. The forms can then be faxed to the local DHHS eligibility office.

Additional Information

- A copy of the Medicaid bulletin text can be found at the DHHS website at:
<http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/Internet/pdf/TempEvacueeAssistance.pdf>
- Should there be any questions, please contact the Department of Health and Human Services toll free at 1-888-549-0820.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.